

You Can
Help Your
Child Learn
To Read

Ready To Learn

CALIFORNIA
**CHILDREN
& FAMILIES**
PARTNERSHIP

A Partnership of the
California Children & Families Commission
and the Children & Families County Commissions

Ready To Learn



Tips To Remember

- Read out loud to your child every day.
- Use board books for babies and younger children.
- Tell stories.
- Take your child to reading programs.
- Let your child draw and write.
- Visit the library.
- Limit TV watching.
Watch educational programs.
- Read yourself.



Help Your Child Get Ready For School

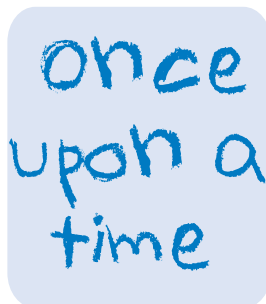
Parents and people who care for children are the most important people in a child's life. You can help your child do well in school even before he or she starts kindergarten. Reading out loud helps your child get a good start at learning. It is the most important way for your child to learn the skills he or she needs for reading and writing. You should start to read out loud even when your child is a baby.

Ready To Learn



Start By Reading Out Loud To Your Child

- Read out loud to your child every day.
- Start to read when your child is a baby.
- Your baby gets used to the sound of your voice. Your baby gets used to touching books.
- Read the same book over and over. It helps a child learn words.
- Keep reading to your child. Even children over 5 years old love to read books with you.
- Ask friends and family to read to your child.



Use Board Books With Babies

- To start out, use board books with few words and many pictures.
- Point to the colors and the pictures and say their names.

Simple books can teach your children things that will help them learn to read. Your children learn:

- A book is read from front to back. It is read right-side-up.
- Print goes from left to right.
- There are spaces between words.

Point to things in books. Try to help your child relate the things to real life. "Look at the dog. Remember the dog we saw at the park?"



Ready To Learn



Tell Stories

- Have your child ask questions.
- Talk about the story with your child.
- Ask your child to guess what will happen next.

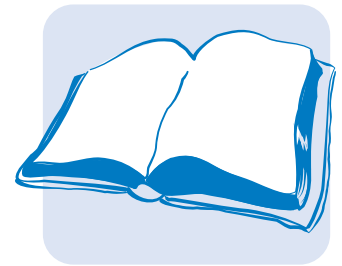
Find Good Books

- Ask friends and teachers to suggest good books for your children.
- Ask the librarian for help choosing books.
- Have your child help pick out books.



Read Yourself

- Let your child see you reading books, newspapers and magazines.
- Your child learns by example. Tell your child how much you like reading.
- If you would like to be a better reader, call your local library for help. They can suggest reading programs for adults, like Even Start.



Ready To Learn



Give Your Child Paper And Crayons

- Give your toddler crayons and large pieces of paper for drawing.
- Give older children paints, markers, tape, crayons and paper.
- Arts and crafts can help your child learn to write.
- Show your child how you use writing.
 - ♦ Write grocery and shopping lists together.

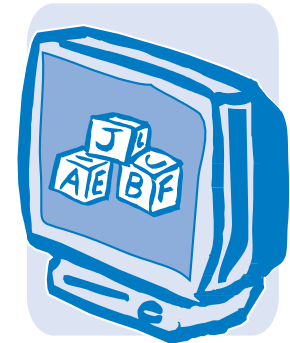


Buy A Children's Dictionary

- Buy one that has pictures next to the words.
- Look up words together.

Limit TV

- Don't let your child watch too much TV.
- Watch TV with your child. Talk about the show. Let your child ask you questions.
- Have your child watch educational TV programs.
 - ♦ "Sesame Street" and "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" are very good.
 - ♦ They help your child learn about letters and sounds.
- Ask your library about other good programs for your child.



Ready To Learn



Visit The Library Often

- Start visiting the library when your child is very young.
- Set a regular time to visit the library with your child.
- Get a library card for your child as soon as you can. Some libraries give them to children as soon as they can print their names.
- Local libraries also have reading programs for children.



You Can Encourage Your Child To Be Ready To Read And Write

To help your child be ready to write:

- Ask your child to draw a picture and tell you what the picture is about. Write down what your child tells you.
- Match a picture with the written word.
- Write words, or help your child cut out words from a magazine.
- Encourage writing skills, even scribbling, at an early age.

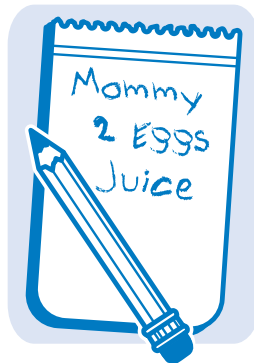


Ready To Learn



Use Play To Help Your Child Learn

- Your child can use reading and writing during play time.
 - ♦ Use junk mail to play post office.
 - ♦ Use a notepad to play waiter/waitress in a restaurant.
 - ♦ Use scrap paper, pencils and an old phone to set up an "office" for your child.



Help Your Child Learn New Words

- Practice clapping out sounds in words. Say letters and sound out words.
- Use songs, finger plays, games and rhymes (like Itsy Bitsy Spider or Diez Deditos).
- Teach your child new words. Explain their meaning in words your child can understand.

**The Itsy
Bitsy Spider
Went Up The
Water Spout...**

Ready To Learn



You Can Help Your Child Learn To Talk Well

- Talk to your child about the colors, sounds and smells in your home and other places.
- Talk to your child about everyday tasks. Name clothing as you help your child dress.
- Ask your child questions. Have your child ask you questions.
- Talk in whole sentences. Use lots of different words when speaking to your child.
- Ask your children to tell you what is important to them.



Where You Can Find Help

Call your local library for more information.

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California Children and Families Commission.

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For more information,
please call (800) KIDS-025.

